

building. A stranger told John about His Place, a Christian recovery home in Opelika, Alabama.

While there, John overcame his addictions, and found religion. He resolved to make good on the change in his life by helping others, and over the past 15 years has served in numerous positions at His Place, most recently becoming an assistant director there. He also serves as a deacon and elder at Grace Falls Church, and is known and loved throughout his community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Mr. Jenkins and wishing him a happy 75th birthday.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. As we celebrate the 70th year of recognizing individuals with disabilities within our national workforce, it is paramount that we, as a country, do everything we can to ensure individuals with a disability have opportunities to enter the workforce without barriers.

Individuals with disabilities are a vital part of our national workforce and have contributed greatly to the U.S. economy. Yet, only 19.1% of these Americans are participants in the labor force. Accessibility, transportation, and perceptions of individuals with disabilities are some of the many obstacles that prevent these Americans from being given the opportunity to put in a full day's work and become active members of our communities. Likewise, it is critical that we recognize the organizations and individuals across the country that provide these opportunities.

The Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind is one such organization in my district that deserves this special recognition. Founded in 1931, the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind provides employment opportunities for the visually impaired. The organization enhances the lives of hundreds of individuals with disabilities. In doing so, they bring tremendous value to our community.

As we recognize October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month, I call on employers, schools, and other organizations to work throughout the year—not only in October—to ensure that individuals with disabilities have a chance to contribute in meaningful and long-lasting ways through gainful employment. Mr. Speaker, individuals with disabilities have a lot of value to contribute to our society, and I am pleased to recognize their contributions during this very special month.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRAGEDY

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I submit an article from Roseburg, Oregon's News-Review to honor and remember the lives of those who were taken too soon at Umpqua Community College on Thursday, October 1, 2015.

I ask that all Americans pray for the friends and families of these nine victims as they grieve and rebuild from this tragedy.

We must also keep in our thoughts and prayers those who were injured physically and emotionally by this event. It will take time and our support and patience as they grieve and recover.

Roseburg is a strong and tight-knit community. I am heartened, and not surprised, by the acts of kindness and generosity in response to an unthinkable act. We call that "UCC Strong," "Roseburg Strong." It is this strong spirit that will carry everyone through this difficult time.

[From the News-Review, Roseburg, Oregon, Oct. 2, 2015]

VICTIMS' FAMILIES: 'OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN SHATTERED BEYOND REPAIR'

The victims who died in Thursday's Umpqua Community College shooting were far more than a list of names. Five of the nine people who died were under 21 years old.

They were youth with bright futures, a teacher who loved the river, older students getting a fresh start.

Their families, friends and community are devastated by their loss.

TREVEN ANSPACH

Treven Anspach's close friend Danny Gil said Anspach loved playing soccer and basketball, and he was good at it because he was taller than everybody else. He also liked just hanging out with friends.

"He always had a smile on his face, I don't know. He was just like the type of guy that was always cheerful to be around," Gil said.

Gil was devastated when he heard from his roommate that a mutual friend had seen Anspach get shot. He believes Anspach was the victim who was brought to Mercy Medical Center and died there.

"I wasn't ready to let him go. I just wasn't ready for it. I just cry about it and talk to my friends about it and my family," Gil said. Gil said Anspach had his whole life ahead of him.

"He was doing good in college. He had a girlfriend. He was engaged, and he was ready for life to just begin," he said.

In a statement, Anspach's family described him as "one of the most positive young men, always looking for the best in life. Treven was larger than life and brought out the best in those around him."

According to his parents, Anspach was "a perfect son."

Anspach played basketball for the Sutherlin Bulldogs and at UCC.

Umpqua Riverhawks basketball coach Dan Leeworthy wrote on Facebook that Anspach wanted to "marry his high school sweetheart, be a firefighter like his Dad, and to serve others."

"To me he was a friend and a coach's dream. He was a friend to everyone," Leeworthy wrote.

LARRY LEVINE

Larry Levine was an assistant English professor at Umpqua Community College. He

was an avid fisherman, a member of the Steamboaters fishing group and a former fly fishing guide.

Levine was teaching an English class just before the shooting, and it was his classroom the gunman entered when the terror began.

Friend and fellow Steamboater Dale Greenley remembered Levine as an "easy-going, kind of quiet, laid back" man. Greenley had known Levine since the 1970s. He said Levine did whatever it took to stay by the river so he could keep on fishing.

"He could have gone off somewhere and probably made good money, but he loved the Umpqua and he stayed here and he finally got that job at the UCC and that was really nice," he said.

Greenley doesn't have a television set, so he didn't know about Levine's death until he was called by a reporter with a national news outlet.

"That's when I found out. It was kind of a shock. I'm still kind of processing it," he said.

Greenley said Levine was fun to talk to. They shared fishing stories together. Levine was a great writer who loved to describe the North Umpqua River he loved, Greenley said.

"He was just part of the river," Greenley said. "Larry loved the river. He committed his life to it."

He was also popular with students.

"If you ever had any questions or problems or anything else, he was Johnny-on-the-spot to help you out," said Taylor Gunn, 21, of Myrtle Creek who took her first ever community college class from Levine last spring.

KIM DIETZ, 59, ROSEBURG

Kim Dietz was a strong and compassionate woman, whose love of animals defined her, said Carolyn Whitehorn, Dietz's mother-in-law.

Dietz owned two Great Pyrenees dogs.

Whitehorn recalled Dietz setting out to befriend a local feral cat who was determined to stay wild.

"Feral cats are not easy to tame," she said through tears. "But she had him tamed in what seemed like no time at all. She would sit outside when he was around and just talk to him and offer him food until he came close enough to pet."

Eventually, the cat became the family pet who lived with Dietz for many years.

"She was such a strong and powerful woman," Whitehorn said. "She will be missed greatly."

LUCAS EIBEL, 18, ROSEBURG

Lucas Eibel's family said they have been "trying to figure out how to tell everyone how amazing Lucas was, but that would take 18 years."

Eibel was an FFA member and a volunteer with Wildlife Safari and Saving Grace. He was a Ford Family Foundation scholarship recipient and was studying chemistry.

He and three of his siblings were quadruplets. They were nicknamed The Quad by their friends at Roseburg High School.

In 2014, Lucas Eibel told News-Review reporter Kate Stringer it's "always funny to see people's reactions" when they find out the four are fraternal quadruplets.

Eibel was studying chemistry in his first year at UCC. It was his favorite subject in high school.

The family has asked that donations be given to Roseburg High School FFA and to the injured victims.

QUINN GLEN COOPER, 18, ROSEBURG

Quinn Glen Cooper was in his fourth day of college.

"We are shocked this has happened," his family's statement said.

Cooper was funny, smart and compassionate. He was the kind of guy who stood up